



## OVERVIEW

Artists use familiar icons such as the Statue of Liberty, the bald eagle, and the American flag to communicate their ideas about American culture and encourage examination of our society.

Through an active discussion of works depicting America's signs and symbols, students will be better able to:

- Understand the difference between a sign and a symbol, as well as the use of each;
- Explore the historical context and symbolic meanings of American icons;
- Discuss the role of symbols in the expression of national identity, personal ideas, and social commentary;
- Use visual and contextual evidence to interpret artworks depicting our nation's signs and symbols.

## HIGHLIGHTED STANDARDS

### Visual Arts

K-12.7: Perceive and analyze artistic work

K-12.8: Interpret intent and meaning in artistic work

K-12.11: Relate artistic ideas and works from a variety of sources with societal, cultural, and historical context to deepen understanding

### Historical Thinking

K-12.2: Draw upon the visual data presented in photographs, paintings, cartoons, and architectural drawings to clarify, illustrate, or elaborate upon information presented in the historical narrative, and appreciate and consider past historical perspectives

K-12.4: Obtain and interrogate historical data from a variety of sources, including library and museum collections, in order to formulate historical questions from encounters with art and other records from the past

### Civics

K-4.2: Basic Values and Principles of American Democracy

## KEY CONCEPTS

amendment, Bill of Rights, Constitution, democracy, freedom, iconography, immigration, liberty, sign, symbol



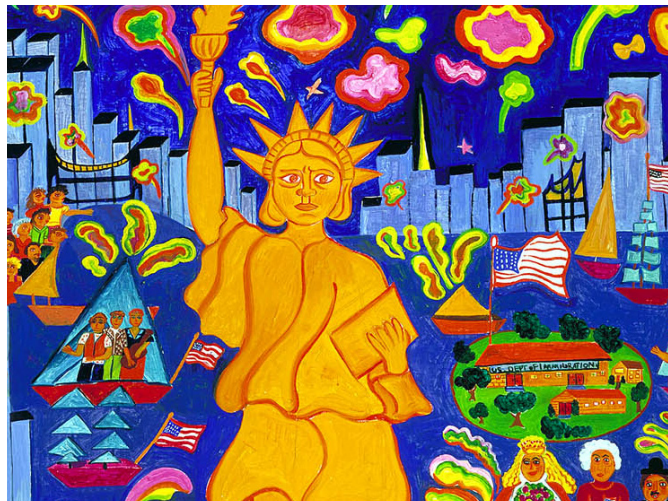
To request this **FREE** program, visit [CILC.org](http://CILC.org) or contact Rebecca Fulcher at [FulcherR@si.edu](mailto:FulcherR@si.edu). More information and a full list of standards are at [AmericanArt.si.edu/education/k-12/videoconferences](http://AmericanArt.si.edu/education/k-12/videoconferences).

## RELATED ARTWORKS

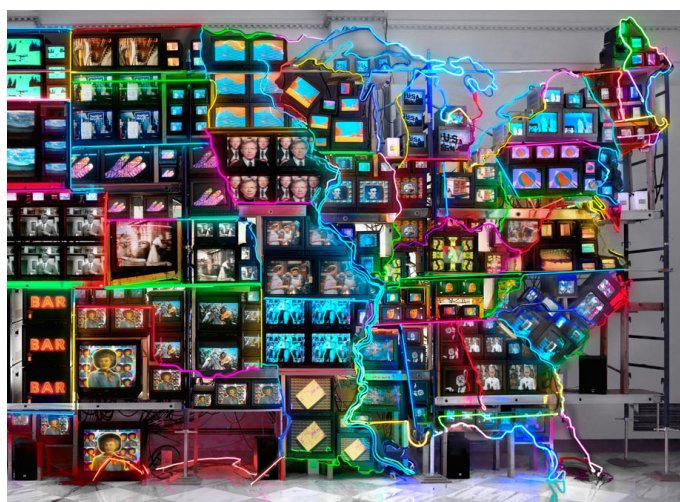
Many artworks in our collection support this videoconference. A representative sample appears below. Please note that images used during your videoconference may vary.



Bill Owens, *Fourth of July Parade (from book, Suburbia)* [Detail], 1972, gelatin silver print, image: 8 1/2 x 6 in., Transfer from the National Endowment for the Arts, 1983.63.1054.  
© 1972, Bill Owens



Malchah Zeldis, *Miss Liberty Celebration* [Detail], 1987, oil on corrugated cardboard, 54 1/2 x 36 1/2 in., Gift of Herbert Waide Hemphill, Jr., 1988.74.14. © 1987, Malchah Zeldis



Nam June Paik, *Electronic Superhighway: Continental U.S., Alaska, Hawaii* [Detail], 1995, fifty-one-channel video installation (including one closed-circuit television feed), custom electronics, neon lighting, steel and wood; color, sound, approx. 15 x 40 x 4 ft., Gift of the artist, 2002.23. © Nam June Paik Estate



Mike Wilkins, *Preamble*, 1987, painted metal on vinyl and wood, 96 x 96 in., Gift of Nissan Motor Corporation in U.S.A., 1988.39.

## ADDITIONAL ARTWORKS

Frederic Auguste Bartholdi, *Liberty*, ca. 1884, painted terra cotta and tin, 46 x 12 x 11 in., Transfer from the U.S. Capitol, XX76.

Anthony de Francisci, *American Eagle Pin*, possibly ca. 1922, white metal relief, 1 5/8 x 2 1/4 in., Gift of Mrs. Anthony de Francisci, 1966.51.78.

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